the number of newspaers (language-wise) to whom advertisements of the UPSC were given through DAVP during the period 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): During the period 1994-95, DAVP released UPSC advertisments to 320 newspapers. Their language-wise break-up is as under:

1. Hindi	94
2. English	56
3. Urdu	46
4. Punjabi	8
5. Marathi	17
6. Gujarati	18
7. Sindhi	4
8. Assamese	4
9. Bengali	13
10. Oriya	8
11. Tamil	20
12. Telugu	8
13. Malayalam	14
14. Kannada	6
15. Nepali	1
16. Mizo	2
17. Manipuri	1
Total:	320

Newspaper bills pending with DAVP

6096. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of newspaper bills pending with the DAVP as on 31st March, 1995; and

(b) since when payment of such bills has been pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) 64,950 newspaper bills were pending with DAVP as on 31-3-95.

(b) The pending bills were received during the period 1-9-94 to 31-3-95.

Review of Press Act

6097. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment of Press Act is under active consideration of Government;

(b) if so, what is the present State of consideration; and

(c) by when a new Bill is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament on the Press Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) There is no Act called the "Press Act". However, the Government had set up a Special Review Group under the Chairmanship of the Principal Information Officer on 12-8-93 to review the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (PRB Act, 1867) and to identify and recommend necessary changes in the Act to facilitate registration of newspapers by simplifying the procedures. The Government is studying the report submitted by the Group. Introduction of Bill to amend the PRB Act, 1867 would require acceptance of the recommendations by the Government, completion of various formalities such as consultation with various Ministries, approval of the Cabinet etc. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate, at this stage, by what time a Bill to amend the said Act can be introduced in the Parliament.